

NorthWestern Energy

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 7/4/2011
SB 225

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March 29, 2011

Rep. Harry Klock
Chairman
House Federal Relations, Energy
And Telecommunications Committee
State Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Klock:

Yesterday, as I visited with members of the FRET Committee, I learned that Sen. Llew Jones had been telling members that SB 225 would adversely affect the development of a wind farm proposed by Invenergy in central Montana, and would have negative effects at Judith Gap as well.

The statements being made by Senator Jones are not true, but it's very difficult to rebut such information when it is being shared with the Committee behind closed doors by a member with floor privileges, or to comment upon emails and telephone calls.

Neither Senator Jones nor Invenergy testified against SB 225 when it was heard in the Senate Energy Committee on February 1, 2011. Senator Jones did not oppose the bill on the floor. In fact, he voted for the bill on both second and third readings on February 18 and February 19, 2011, respectively.

On February 25, 2011, NorthWestern terminated contract discussion with Invenergy for a 25 MW wind project in central Montana. Then, Invenergy began opposing bills supported by NorthWestern Energy.

In keeping with the tradition established in the Senate, neither Invenergy nor Senator Jones testified against SB 225 when it was heard in FRET. Instead Senator Jones began conducting a whispering campaign against the bill in the back rooms of the Capitol. In early March, his son Aaron, who is an employee of Invenergy, filed paperwork with the Commissioner of Political Practices to lobby for his employer.

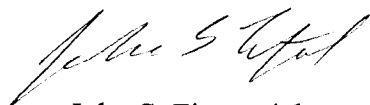
Democracy is based on the concept of "deliberative government" in which parties on both sides of an issue present their views in open debate and where members of the Committee have a chance to question the witnesses.

That never happened with SB 225. The people of Montana who are going to pay the enormous costs of any QF contract signed by NorthWestern deserve better treatment. They need to know that the legislature was fully informed about this issue and made a decision based on the facts rather than misinformation offered in the back room by a senator who seems to care more about the welfare of his son's multi-national corporate employer than the people of Montana.

As such, I respectfully ask you to reopen the hearing on SB 225 tomorrow afternoon and invite Senator Jones to testify on Invenergy's behalf. I would be happy to debate this issue with Senator Jones in the clear light of day with the camera recording our remarks for posterity.

Finally, NorthWestern's contract negotiations with Invenergy are subject to a non-disclosure agreement. NorthWestern will, however, waive our rights to that agreement. If Invenergy will do the same, both parties can openly discuss why NorthWestern terminated contract negotiations.

Very truly yours,



John S. Fitzpatrick
Executive Director
Governmental Affairs

Encs.

cc: House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee Members

MONTANA SENATE
62nd Legislative Session
2011 Regular Session
VOTE TABULATION

DATE: February 18, 2011

TIME: 01:57 PM

Agenda--~~Second Reading~~

SEQ. NO: 403

BILL NO: SB 225

SPONSOR: Priest, Jason

Do Pass

YEAS	NAYS	EXCUSED	ABSENT
41	9	0	0

Y Arthun, Ron	Y Gallus, Steven	Y Lewis, Dave	Y Tropila, Mitch
Y Augare, Shannon	Y Gillan, Kim	Y Moore, Frederick (Eric)	Y Tutvedt, Bruce
Y Balyeat, Joe	Y Hamlett, Bradley	N Moss, Lynda	Y Van Dyk, Kendall
Y Barrett, Debby	Y Hawks, Bob	Y Mowbray, Carmine	Y Vincent, Chas
Y Blewett, Anders	Y Hinkle, Greg	Y Murphy, Terry	N Vuckovich, Gene
Y Branae, Gary	Y Hutton, Rowlie	Y Olson, Alan	Y Walker, Edward
Y Brenden, John	Y Jackson, Verdell	Y Peterson, Jim	Y Wanzenried, David
Y Brown, Taylor	Y Jent, Larry	Y Priest, Jason	N Williams, Carol
Y Buttrey, Edward	Y Jones, Llew	Y Ripley, Rick	N Windy Boy, Jonathan
N Caferro, Mary	N Kaufmann, Christine	Y Shockley, Jim	Y Wittich, Art
N Erickson, Ron	Y Keane, Jim	Y Sonju, Jon	Y Zinke, Ryan
Y Essmann, Jeff	Y Lake, Bob	Y Steinbeisser, Donald	
Y Facey, Tom	N Larsen, Cliff	N Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon	

MONTANA SENATE
62nd Legislative Session
2011 Regular Session
VOTE TABULATION

DATE: February 19, 2011

SEQ. NO: 436

TIME: 11:49 AM

BILL NO: SB 225

Agenda--~~Third Reading~~

SPONSOR: Priest, Jason

Do Pass

YEAS	NAYS	EXCUSED	ABSENT
39	11	0	0

Y Arthun, Ron	Y Gallus, Steven	Y Lewis, Dave	Y Tropila, Mitch
Y Augare, Shannon	Y Gillan, Kim	Y Moore, Frederick (Eric)	Y Tutvedt, Bruce
Y Balyeat, Joe	Y Hamlett, Bradley	N Moss, Lynda	N Van Dyk, Kendall
Y Barrett, Debby	Y Hawks, Bob	Y Mowbray, Carmine	Y Vincent, Chas
Y Blewett, Anders	Y Hinkle, Greg	Y Murphy, Terry	N Vuckovich, Gene
Y Branae, Gary	Y Hutton, Rowlie	Y Olson, Alan	Y Walker, Edward
Y Brenden, John	Y Jackson, Verdell	Y Peterson, Jim	Y Wanzenried, David
Y Brown, Taylor	Y Jent, Larry	Y Priest, Jason	N Williams, Carol
Y Buttrey, Edward	Y Jones, Llew	Y Ripley, Rick	N Windy Boy, Jonathan
N Caferro, Mary	N Kaufmann, Christine	Y Shockley, Jim	Y Wittich, Art
N Erickson, Ron	Y Keane, Jim	Y Sonju, Jon	Y Zinke, Ryan
Y Essmann, Jeff	Y Lake, Bob	Y Steinbeisser, Donald	
N Facey, Tom	N Larsen, Cliff	N Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon	